

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-19 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the subject matter of claim 2 has been included in claim 1.

Since the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-4 and 8-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is submitted that the claims in the application are now in condition for allowance.

Concerning the copy of Form PTO-1449 in which the Examiner crossed out the German references, it is respectfully submitted that the references are listed in the German Search Report which was submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement in which the references are characterized by category and each category is an indication of the relevance of each respective reference.


Finally, it is noted that the Examiner did not acknowledge the claim for priority and the receipt of the priority document. Both were submitted with the original application papers. Accordingly, acknowledgement is respectfully requested.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.


Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 13, 2004.

By: 
Friedrich Kueffner

Date: July 13, 2004